
Subject: total newbie seeks to interact with data language
Posted by [Tom Roche](#) on Tue, 01 Jul 2008 22:48:22 GMT
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Can someone point me toward one or more equivalents of "The Coder's Guide to IDL"? or even "IDL for Dummies"? Why I ask:

I'm a "computer scientist" (BSCS, employment mostly in Java and Perl with side trips into bash, C++, Lisp, et al) turned brand-new environmental-science grad student working on atmospheric modeling. My advisor just dumped a big bucket o' IDL in my lap; after the initial "Breathless Horror and Disgust" wore off it seems I can kinda read it.

Now I wanna {run, debug, understand} it--how to start? I went looking @ the vendor's site

http://www.itvis.com/idl/idl_resources.asp

and was underwhelmed: java.sun.com that ain't! Fortunately I got pointed here from

<http://www.dfanning.com/>

(which fortunately links

<http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave?hl=en>

which works, unlike ITTVIS' page, which links to

<http://groups.google.com/groups?hl=en&group=comp.lang.idl-pvwave>

--talk about bad first impression) thanks to the fine folks @ Wikipedia. Unfortunately the material @

<http://www.dfanning.com/documents/tips.html#Tutorials>

seems to be at least one level above where I am WRT IDL, so I'm hoping someone here can point me toward absolute-beginner material. (Preferably free of charge, because I am now officially impoverished.) Feel free to reply via the group or directly to me.

TIA, Tom Roche <Tom_Roche@pobox.com>
